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REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nishiberi* (US Patent No. 5,984,300).

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 13-18, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Tamura* (US Patent No. 6,469,811).

On page 4 of the Office Action, it was indicated that claims 21 and 22 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 11, 13, 16, and 29 have been amended to clarify the features of the invention. Dependent claims 3, 6, 8, 15, and 20-22 have been amended accordingly. New claim 30 has been filed to obtain proper scope of the invention.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). With the amendments on claims 1, 11, 13, 16, and 29, the application should be in condition for allowance for the reason explained below.

As recited in amended claim 1, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on the record medium.

The medium tray comprises a depository in which a plurality of the record media is loaded such that front and rear portions of the record media have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record media when the record media are in the depository; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository for folding the record media so that the rear portions

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of the record media are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

Further, the depository including a medium support for placing the front portions of the record media and a rear guide extending upwardly from a rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly. The medium support protrudes outside of the image recording apparatus from a side of the image recording apparatus to be exposed. The folding member is disposed at an upper portion of the rear guide, and the folding member includes a guide member for guiding the record media toward the image recording apparatus.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 1, the depository loads a plurality of the record media. Further, the folding member folds the record media, so that the rear portions of the record media are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

Nishiberi has disclosed a sub tray of a sheet tray arranged so as to be held by a locking mechanism in any one of at least three rotational positions relative to a main tray including an opened position, a stored position and an intermediate position.

(Abstract)

In FIG. 1 in *Nishiberi*, reference numeral 1 denotes a main tray, provided with embossing 1A on either side for attachment to the main body (or automatic feeding device). Reference numeral 2 denotes a sub tray, and reference numeral 3 denotes a locking lever. The Figure illustrates the sub tray 2 being maintained in an opened position by means of the later-described locking mechanism. (col. 3, lines 20-26)

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In FIG. 2 in *Nishiberi*, reference numeral 30 denotes a roller for feeding the cut sheet 9 serving as the recording sheet, reference numeral 4 denotes a coupled roller for pressing the sheet 9 to the feeding roller 30, reference numeral 5 denotes a first ejecting roller, reference numeral 6 denotes a second ejecting roller, reference numeral 7 denotes a carriage which is mounted with a recording head (recording means) 7a and performs main scanning, and reference numeral 8 denotes the exterior of the apparatus. (col. 3, lines 34-42) Further, reference numeral 2c denotes a fitting shaft adapted to be received by the fitting hole 1c of the main tray 1. (col. 5, lines 57-58)

As clearly shown in FIG. 7 in *Nishiberi*, the main tray 1 loads only one single continuous form 11. Further, the continuous form 11 (of record medium) slightly bends upward at the sub tray 2 and is not folded toward a main apparatus.

In the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 1, the depository loads a plurality of the record media. Further, the folding member folds the record media, so that the rear portions of the record media are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

In *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the depository loading a plurality of the record media and the folding member folding the record media, so that the rear portions of the record media are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 1. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 1 is

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not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

As recited in amended claim 11, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on the record medium.

The medium tray comprises a depository for loading the record medium such that front and rear portions of the record medium have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record medium when the record medium is in the depository; a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository such that the record medium in the depository is folded toward the image recording apparatus; and at least one rear supporter provided above the depository at a position closer to the image recording apparatus than that of the folding member for supporting the rear portion of the record medium folded at the folding member. The rear supporter holds the rear portion of the record medium such that the rear portion is rolled up.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 11, at least one rear supporter is provided above the depository at a position closer to the image recording apparatus than that of the folding member for supporting the rear portion of the record medium folded at the folding member. Therefore, the rear supporter and the folding member are two separate components. Further, the rear supporter holds the rear portion of the record medium such that the rear portion is rolled up.

In the Action, the examiner regarded the sub tray 2 in *Nishiberi* as both of the rear supporter and the folding member of the invention. However, as explained above, the rear supporter and the folding member of the invention are two separate components.

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Further, the sub tray 2 does not hold the rear portion of the record medium such that the rear portion is rolled up. In *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the rear supporter provided above the depository at a position closer to the image recording apparatus than that of the folding member for supporting the rear portion of the record medium folded at the folding member. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 11. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 11 is not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

As recited in amended claim 29, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus. The medium tray comprises a depository protruding outside of the image recording apparatus to be exposed for depositing a plurality of record media; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository. Further, the folding member includes a guide member for guiding rear portions of the record media to be folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 29, the depository deposits a plurality of the record media. Further, the guide member guides the rear portions of the record media to be folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

As explained above, in *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the depository loading a plurality of the record media and the guide member for guiding the rear portions of the record media to be folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention

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recited in claim 29. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 29 is not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

As recited in amended claim 13, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on said record medium.

The medium tray comprises a depository in which a plurality of the record media is loaded such that front and rear portions of the record media have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record media when the record media are in the depository; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository such that rear portions of the record media in the depository are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

Further, the depository includes a medium support for placing the front portions of the record media and a rear guide extending upwardly from a rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portions of the record media upwardly. The medium support protrudes outside of the image recording apparatus from a side of the image recording apparatus to be exposed. The folding member is disposed at an upper portion of the rear guide. The folding member is composed of the rear guide and an upper guide extending from a top end of the rear guide toward a main body of the image recording apparatus such that the upper guide covers the rear guide.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 13, the depository loads a plurality of the record media. Further, the folding member is provided at a rear portion of the depository such that rear portions of the record media in the depository are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

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Tamura has disclosed that a tray body 2 and a movable plate portion 10 can be folded each other. If there is sufficient space in an apparatus setting area, the movable plate portion 10 is opened, and cut paper is support by both a first mounting surface 3a and a second mounting surface 10a. If the apparatus setting area is limited, the movable plate portion 10 is closed and the occupying area of a feeder tray 1 is reduced. In this case, since an insertion port 16 is formed between the first mounting surface 3a and the second mounting surface 10a, paper feeding can be carried out even when the tray body 2 and the movable plate portion 10 are folded. (abstract)

However, in *Tamura*, the movable plate portion 10 is simply closed and opened, and is not capable of folding a record medium.

In the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 13, the depository loads a plurality of the record media. Further, the folding member is provided at a rear portion of the depository such that rear portions of the record media in the depository are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward.

In *Tamura*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the depository loading a plurality of the record media and the folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository such that rear portions of the record media in the depository are folded toward the image recording apparatus with upper surfaces of the record media inward. Accordingly, *Tamura* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 13. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 13 is not anticipated by *Tamura*.

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As recited in amended claim 16, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on the record medium.

The medium tray comprises a depository for loading the record medium such that front and rear portions of the record medium have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record medium when the record medium is in the depository; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository such that the record medium in the depository is folded toward the image recording apparatus. The depository comprises a medium support for placing the front portion of the record medium and a rear guide extending upwardly from a rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portion of the record medium upwardly. The folding member is composed of the rear guide and an upper guide extending from a top end of the rear guide toward a main body of the image recording apparatus such that the upper guide covers the rear guide. The upper guide comprises a rear supporter disposed at a position closer to the image recording apparatus than that of the folding member for supporting the rear portion of the record medium placed in the depository, and the rear supporter holds the rear portion of the record medium such that the rear portion is rolled up.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 16, the upper guide comprises the rear supporter disposed at a position closer to the image recording apparatus than that of the folding member for supporting the rear portion of the record medium placed in the depository, and the rear supporter holds the rear portion of the record medium such that the rear portion is rolled up.

In *Tamura*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the

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rear supporter disposed at a position closer to the image recording apparatus than that of the folding member for supporting the rear portion of the record medium placed in the depository, and the rear supporter holding the rear portion of the record medium such that the rear portion is rolled up. Accordingly, *Tamura* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 16. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 16 is not anticipated by *Tamura*.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kubotera', with a stylized, flowing script.

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